AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-25 (Canceled).

Claim 26 (Currently amended): A method of detecting in a sample the presence of metastatic breast cancer, the method comprising:

contacting a nucleic acid sample from breast tissue cells of a human patient with a probe which specifically hybridizes under stringent conditions to a target polynucleotide sequence consisting of the sequence of SEQ ID NO:9, or the complete complement thereof, wherein said stringent conditions include washing with 0.2x SSC at 65°C for 15 minutes, wherein the probe is contacted with the sample under conditions in which the probe hybridizes selectively with the target polynucleotide sequence to form a stable hybridization complex; and

detecting the formation of the hybridization complex, and ~~the~~ an elevated ~~increase in the~~ copy number of ZABC1 (SEQ ID NO:9) greater than a 1.5-fold copy number, and correlating the elevated ~~increase in the~~ copy number of ZABC1 (SEQ ID NO:9) with the presence of metastatic breast cancer.

Claim 27 (Original): The method of claim 26, wherein the nucleic acid sample is from a patient with breast cancer.

Claim 28 (Previously presented): The method of claim 26, wherein the nucleic acid sample is a metaphase spread or an interphase nucleus.

Claims 29-36 (Canceled).

Claim 37 (Original): The method of claim 26, wherein the probe comprises a polynucleotide sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:9.

Claims 38-60 (Canceled).

Claim 61 (Previously presented): The method of claim 26, wherein the probe is labeled.

Claim 62 (Previously presented): The method of claim 61, wherein the label is a fluorescent label.

Claim 63 (Previously presented): The method of claim 26, wherein the nucleic acid sample is a chromosome.

Claim 64 (New): The method of claim 26, wherein said elevated copy number of ZABC1 (SEQ ID NO:9) is greater than a 3-fold copy number.